

Use of Sequence/Transition Words to Organize Writing and Provide Structure

Alisa Stout
Speech Language Pathologist
School District of Shiocton (WI)/Grandview School District (MO)
alisastout@gmail.com

My Thinking as a Teacher

Learning Targets:

Students will:

- Demonstrate the ability to sequence pictures
- Demonstrate comprehension of order in a narrative
- Demonstrate an understanding of vocabulary words used for sequence/transition
- Write a paragraph that includes a topic sentence, use of at least 3 sequence words, and an accurate order of events.

Teachers will:

- Learn of the importance of sequence/transition words for organizing writing
- Experience implementation of a strategy for teaching structure of student writing through order, showing passage of time, and providing a sequence of actions.
- Experience the gradual release of responsibility in guiding students to independently write a description of events in chronological order

References/Expert Voices:

Ukrainetz, T. A. (2006) *Contextualized language intervention: Scaffolding preK-12 literacy achievement*. Greenville, SC: Thinking Publications.

- Using cohesive temporal connecting words (transition words) “makes a story more clearly an action sequence.” “Using cohesive temporal connections to improve the story is a step in refining action sequences and cohesion structure.”

Culham, R. (2003) *6 +1 traits of writing: The complete guide grades 3 and up*. New York, NY: Scholastic Inc.

- Teaching sequencing as well as transition words “builds an understanding of the importance of order in making your point clear.”

Kemper, D., Sebranek, P., & Meyer, V. (2005) *Write source: A book for writing, thinking, and learning*. Wilmington, MA: Great Source Education Group.

- “Linking words and phrases (transitions) can help you organize the details in each mode of writing.”

Heard, G. (2002) *The revision toolbox: Teaching techniques that work*. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann

- “We can help students become more aware of structure by...pointing out an author’s structural and organizational devices.”